



THE FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

TIME FOR REDEDICATION TO SERVICE

(Written Specially For The Bulletin.)

Another contribution to the "high cost of living" discussion may be found in a recent Washington dispatch.

An assistant secretary of war calmly announced to the congressional military committee last week that the department had just sold eighty-one million pounds of canned meats to a Philadelphia firm for \$5,214,376.

This was at the rate of about six and a half cents a pound.

The department paid thirty-four cents a pound for it, the last year of the war.

The present market price is stated to be about twenty-one cents a pound.

How much do you suppose you will have to pay for a pound of it if such meat should ever happen to come your way?

As a purely business proposition, what do you think of the plan of buying and selling meat at thirty-four cents a pound, holding them two years after any possible use for them has disappeared, and then selling them at six and a half cents a pound when the regular trade value even on a falling market, is twenty-one cents?

Does any consumer expect to get any more of these six and a half cent canned meats at less than the full market rate?

As an occasional and a chary user of such meats I am compelled to report that I can't buy them anywhere in my vicinity, at anywhere near that figure of twenty-one cents. Indeed, if I could get hold of a few lbs. at the alleged twenty-one cent rate, in view of existing prices for fresh meat, I think I should invest in them. It would be an economy.

It seems to me that I have once before alluded to an English case, where a munitions factory, built under war-time stress and at what was supposed to be the peak of war-time prices, was after the close of the war, sold for the English government for several thousand pounds sterling more than it cost. At almost that very time our government was selling buildings similarly constructed during the war for less than one-tenth of their original cost.

Now, whether this means that the English profiteers aren't such such as the Americans, or that the English government is a keener and broader businessman than the American, I don't know—or care. I'm simply wondering why, if there aren't such things as green trees, they can't do something similar in this.

Only a couple of weeks ago one department of the government, that of agriculture, was estimating American farmers for next being better off than now. Now, we now have another department of government, that of war, selling for six and a half cents a pound goods which it paid thirty-four cents a pound for and the existing market value of which, itself reports to be twenty-one cents a pound. Is that a sample of the high art of salesmanship which the farmers of the land are told they should aspire to? If so, the statement isn't by any means honest. It can hardly be called efficient, even. I have no trouble, simple-minded and honest as I am, in seeing right now for six cents a pound of onions, which even me in the neighborhood of thirty cents a neck to raise. I can do even better. I can sell potatoes which cost me between ninety cents and a dollar a bushel to grow, for eighty-five cents a bushel.

If it is high finance and expert salesmanship to sell things at less than cost—which is the present governmental plan—then he would be only a poor stick of a farmer who couldn't do it, even on a rainy day in a cold, backward spring. Oh, shucks!

It is little over a week now, since a Florida cabbage-crower sent a car-load of fancy new cabbages to New York. After they had been sold in that center of big business and high finance and the various charges for freight and commission and cartage and wheelage and slaugage and cessage and so forth deducted, the Florida cabbage-crower received seven one-cent stamps in full payment for his carload.

Probably you've all read about the famous Chicago onion case. For the benefit of the few who may not have, let me say that a Chicago organization having the interests of the city consumers in view recently checked out nearly a crop Texas onions. They were being re-

ported in Chicago at the rate of \$200 per ton. The detective found that the Texas onion-growers were receiving just \$42 a ton for them and that the freight from Texas to Chicago cost a little over \$29 a ton more. That is, the cost of the onions in Chicago, a trifling over \$71 a ton. The other \$129 which Chicago consumers paid went, not for onion-juice or even onion smell, but into the maws of various Chicago sharks.

Up to the time these facts were brought out and published, Chicago consumers, with characteristic lucidity and vigor, had been denouncing the farmers for the high cost of onions. Since that time, those who are able to rig and capable of understanding what they read have changed their tune.

There used to be such a thing as the law of supply and demand. It was supposed to govern prices and, more or less, affect the rate of production. I have, once or twice, ventured to express my modest opinion that this law wasn't as effective, now-a-days, as it used to be. The U. S. controller of the currency once declared that "Manufacturers, jobbers, wholesalers, retailers, laborers are all in some sort of combination to frustrate this one-time fundamental law of economics. Each is out to get his first." The result is that prices have been driven to a point where there is no relation between them and actual values.

The law of supply and demand, said he, "is as dead as a New England salt mackerel."

This is emphatic. It is also clear. No one can fail to understand it.

The controller of the currency is not necessarily either inspired or infallible. But his holding that position is prima facie evidence that he has some financial acumen, and the position itself gives him large scope for observation. When the fact-finding assertion of such an authority confirms our more or less hesitating suggestion we can, at least, take the comfort of knowing that we are not absolutely ignorant cranks, isolated in our unreason.

If the old law of supply and demand is no longer the decisive factor in business, what has taken its place? That is a rather serious question. It cannot be that the present orgy and saturnalia of profiteering is to continue unchecked. To assume even the possibility of such a thing would be to surrender all the moral gains the world has made in six thousand years. It would be a retrogression to primeval barbarism.

For there is really small moral distinction between the modern profiteer and the "robber-baron" of the Dark Ages. That brigand took what he would get, right or wrong, by virtue of superior strength. The profiteer takes what he can get, right or wrong, by virtue of superior craft and cunning. And both are in accordance with the same principle of utter selfishness and immorality which governs the relations of those whom we are pleased to term "the lower animals." This is something which optimists based the human race had outgrown. But has it?

That is a question which this genera-

tion has got to find an answer for. Apparently, the search for a solution is going to be something of a hunt. There are ideals enough far off, among the stars, if only, as Emerson whimsically suggested, we might hitch our wagons to them. But on the level horizon of practical, everyday life we must have sharp eyes who can see any assured promise of dawn.

It is never wise to cling fastidiously to the old when the new offers improvement and progress. Such conduct is rightly sneered at as "old-fashioned." But when the new offers neither improvement nor progress, but instead a whitful reaction towards lower levels of life, its welcome should be delayed by men of character.

Now that the law of supply and demand has gone into the discard, what other seemingly fixed law of human relationship can we be sure of? Are all the other old landmarks to be obliterated, too?

Personally, I do not so much desiderate for the farmers of the nation that education in salesmanship which Secretary Wallace urges, as I do a re-dedication to service and a renewal of our allegiance to character.

It may be hopeless to expect that we shall all become aureoled angels overnight. But, at least, we may refuse to take the robbing bag for our model. There ought to be a middle road between the two extremes.

To change the figure: when other people are robbing the bag just to see how near they can come to tipping it over, hadn't we better sit tight and as near the goal as we can get? Then we shall have done our best to preserve balance and save the endangered craft.

THE FARMER

MONTVILLE

Miss Pearl Coman was hostess to several little friends last Saturday afternoon from 2 until 5 o'clock at the home of her grandmother, Mrs. Frank Coman, in Pequot, on her eighth birthday. Miss Coman was remembered with many gifts from her playmates. There were various games, including an exciting peanut hunt. Mrs. Coman served sandwiches, ice cream and fruit punch. Several birthday cakes adorned the table, one being decorated with eight lighted candles. Those attending were Eleanor Gough, Dorothy and Marian Stamm, Lucy Taylor, Earl Coman, Margarette Bergman, Beatrice Payne, Mabel Hazel and Jennie Daniels.

Miss Sarah Leveoff and a friend from Norwalk spent the last two holidays with Mr. and Mrs. Leveoff.

Becky Miller, who spent a week with her parents, returned to New York recently.

A dance was given in New London Saturday night by Mr. and Mrs. Gudon Avery and those from here who attended were Stanley and William Tinker, Ruth Tinker, Jacob Kaplan and Florence Powers, Mr. and Mrs. George Chappell, Edna, Marguerite and Gilbert Chappell, Griswold Chappell, Elmer Chappell, Ruth Morgan and Truman Chappell.

Miss Ruth Tinker was hung a May basket Sunday evening by Ruth Morgan, Edna and Marguerite Chappell, Griswold Chappell, Florence Powers and Howard Whiting and Truman Chappell. After the usual chase, all were invited into the house, where a pleasant evening was spent.

R. Ribner, 59, died at his home Sunday morning from heart failure. He has been a resident of this place ever since he came to this country. He is survived by his widow, three sons, four daughters and many grandchildren. Services were held at his residence, Monday morning, and burial was in New London cemetery.

CHESTERFIELD

People from surrounding towns attended the auction of Miss Annie Fox at Lake's Pond Tuesday.

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SHUNOC

Charles Eugene Merrill, for years a resident of Shunoc, has left for his new home in Jacksonville, Fla. Mr. Merrill and family will be much missed by many friends in this place.

Varian B. York has given up farming and is with the Western Grain company. Several of the residents here attended the funeral of Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson held at the Methodist church Sunday morning. Burial was in the Pendleton Hill cemetery.

E. B. James and family entertained relatives from Pachaug at their home Sunday.

Large numbers of the residents here attended the funeral of Ralph P. Wheeler at his place, two miles west of here, on Wednesday. Mr. Wheeler gives up farming because of poor health. William A.

ECZEMA CAUSED YEARS OF INTENSE AGONY

"I have suffered intense agony from eczema on my leg and other parts of my body for years, and received only temporary relief from other preparations. It is only a month since I started to use PETERSON'S OINTMENT, and there is no sign of eczema or itching. You can refer to me."—George C. Talbot, 27 Penfield St., Buffalo, N. Y.

"I've got a hundred testimonials," says Peterson of Buffalo, "just as sincere and honest as this one. Years ago, when I first started to put out PETERSON'S OINTMENT, I made up my mind to give a big box for 35 cents, and I am still doing it, as every druggist in the country knows."

I guarantee PETERSON'S OINTMENT because I know that its mighty healing power is marvelous. I say to everyone who buys a box that it is rigidly guaranteed for eczema, salt rheum, old sores, blind, bleeding and itching piles, ulcers, skin diseases, chafing, burns, scalds and sunburn, and if not satisfactory, any druggist will return your money. Mail orders filled by Peterson Ointment Co., Inc., Buffalo, N. Y.

Wilcox of Westerly was the manager and E. E. Carpenter auctioneer at the sale. It is not known what Mr. Wheeler's business plans are.

Members of the North Stonington grange, P. of H., presented the three act drama "Back to the Farm" before a crowded house in Barber's hall, Ashaway, R. I., Wednesday evening.

Friends of Webster Chapman, who has been seriously ill of pneumonia at his home here, are pleased to note a decided improvement in his condition.

Mrs. Phoebe R. Partlow, 9, long a resident here, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Herbert B. Vincent, in this place Wednesday.

Miss Doris Paine of Palmer, Mass., sings at the Congregational church every Sunday and is heard with much interest by the parishioners. She possesses a resonant, clear voice.

Alexander Ballentine of Groton, a frequent visitor with friends here, is seriously ill in a New London hospital.

Men are finding employment on the Norwich and Westerly state road, now in process of construction.

Noyes Eccleston is ill.

SOUTH WILLINGTON

The Woman's Missionary society will meet Friday evening at 7:45 o'clock at the home of Miss Rosa O. Hall. There will be a report on the Jubilee meeting held in Boston last week.

The Holland County Sunday School association will hold four district institutes Tuesday and Wednesday, May 10-11, Tuesday's meeting will be at Somers and Ellington at 2:30-7 o'clock p. m. The Wednesday meeting will be in North Coventry and Andover at 2:30-7 o'clock p. m. Two teams of workers from the state office conduct the meetings. It is expected that several from the local school will attend the meeting in North Coventry.

William Pike and William Rinaur of Dartmouth, N. J., were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Service, Jr.

Miss Margaret Brownlee spent the week-end at the home of Miss Hazel Anderson, of Norwich.

Friday evening a silver medal speaking contest will be held in Memorial church under the auspices of Willington W. C. T. U.

The spring rally of the Willington Christian Endeavor Union will be held at Columbia May 7 at 7 o'clock p. m. The local union society is to be represented in the program. Four decades of Christian Endeavor. This rally will commemorate the 40th year of Christian Endeavor.

Saturday, May 7th, at 2 p. m. A. D. Toppenwin of the Winchester Repeating Arms company is to give an exhibition of shooting at the Willington Gun club grounds in South Willington. Mr. Toppenwin has a world-wide reputation as a

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PIER 36, NORTH RIVER

NEW YORK

rifle shot and all who are present will witness a marvelous exhibition of skill.

Rev. Mr. Kendrick of Windsor will occupy the pulpit in Memorial church Sunday next.

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CLARK'S CORNERS

Mrs. Cynthia Chase of Woonsocket was a recent visitor in town.

Mrs. E. C. Jewett and daughter, Faun, spent the week-end at Northfield, Vermont, visiting the former's son at Northfield university.

Mrs. Wade and John Hamond visited in Hartford Sunday.

Tim Navin of New Haven, is at P. J. Navin's.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Averill of Putnam and Kenneth Overill of Springfield, street Saturday afternoon.

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The Boston Store

Norwich Reid & Hughes Co. Conn

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